



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE A MINOR FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Port Arthur, Texas, man pleaded guilty in federal court today to attempting to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity.

Joseph R. Gabourel, 32, of Port Arthur, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to the charge contained in an Oct. 18, 2005, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty today, **Gabourel** admitted that he used the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illegal sexual activity. **Gabourel** engaged in a series of online conversations with an undercover police officer, who posed as both a 30-year-old woman and her 14-year-old daughter, between Feb. 10 and Sept. 25, 2005. During those Internet chat sessions, Graves said, **Gabourel** discussed having sex with the daughter. While chatting with the officer portraying a 14-year-old daughter, **Gabourel** masturbated over the Webcam and demonstrated how he would use a condom.

Gabourel made arrangements to travel from Texas to Missouri in order to have sex with the daughter. He was arrested after he arrived in the Kansas City, Mo., area on Sept. 24, 2005.

Under federal statutes, **Gabourel** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to 30 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html